(b) (i) M/s Roots Corporation Ltd., a subsidiary of Indian Hotesls Company Ltd. is interested to establish hotels and other tourist friendly facilities in Puri, Konark, Paradeep, Duburi and Jharsuguda. In the 1st phase they are proposing to set up India One Hotels at Bhubaneshwar, Puri, Konark and Paradeep with an investment of Rs. 40.00 Crore within 3 years.

(ii) M/s Laxmi Franklim Hospitality Pvt. Ltd., is interested to establish Star hotels at Bhubaneshwar, Puri, Konark, Paradeep, Duburi and Jharsuguda. In the 1st phase they will set up hotel at Bhubaneshwar and Puri with an investment of Rs. 20.00 Crore within 3 years.

(iii) M/s UMAK Investment company Ltd., New Delhi propose to establish star hotels at Bhubaneshwar, Puri, Konark, Paradeep, Satapada and Barkul. In the 1st phase they will invest about Rs. 110.00 Crore for establishing Star Hotels at Bhubaneshwar, Konark, Satapada and Paradeep.

(c) Ministry of Tourism has alredy prepared a 20 year perspective tourism plan for Orissa, which has been sent to the State Government for their guidance. This plan has recommended strategies for tourism promotion, product development, augmentation of infrastructure including sources of funding and implementation mechanism to help the State.

Refurbishing the surrounding of Taj Mahal

159. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that comprehensive Rs. 40 crore plan has been drawn up to refurbish the ambience surrounding the Taj Mahal at Agra, with a view to better the "Taj Mahal experience" and also to boost tourism to the historic city which has three World Heritage sites; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and the UP State Tourism Department have taken an initiative for the Revitalisation of Agra for improvement of area around the Taj Mahal in order to enhance the Visitors Experience on approaching Taj Mahal. This is aimed to ensure a

memorable experience to all the tourists and visitors to Agra in general and Taj Mahal in particular and to create and provide facilities and infrastructure of of the highest order. Ministry of Tourism had commissioned HUDCO to prepare a Project report and HUDCO's project proposal of Rs. 39.34 crore was submitted to the State Government for detailed examination. The State Government has recommended the same for approval and in the first phase, the proposal for the "Development of East Gate Entry to Taj Mahal" for Rs. 767.00 lakh has already been sanctioned during the year 2005-06.

Connectivity of tourist destinations in Kerala

160. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for a project aiming to improve connectivity between the four prime tourist destinations, Kovalam, Kumarakom, Munnar and Bekal in the State seeking financial assistance from the Centre; and

(b) if so, the details of the project and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Joint Project of Pancheswar Yojna in Uttaranchal

†161. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether work is going on, on the joint project of Pancheswar Yojna under survey in Uttaranchal; and

(b) if so, the percentage of work completed in the Indian territory relating to joint project of Pancheswar Yojna under survey and the percentage of work completed in the Nepal territory?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is undetaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administration. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.